

**TAKING NOTES**

Student:

Date: 10/10/01

**1**

**Name the source.** Include all the information you'll need to identify the source in a bibliography: name of the publication, chapter or article, author, publisher, and date of publication.

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**2**

**Write a summary.** What are the main ideas or opinions discussed? If possible, use key words and phrases from the source in your summary sentence.

I favor the Yucca Mountain Project because it is essential to the continuous operation of Nuclear Power plants in the United States.

Nuclear Power is not the ogre that its opponents want the public to perceive. It is more environmentally friendly than any fossil fuel power source and less costly per kilowatt-hour than any renewable energy source.

The Yucca Mountain Project has been staffed by some of the most talented engineers and scientists that I have worked with in my thirty-five years of engineering. I worked on the Project for eight years, primarily in the Quality Assurance area. I was the manager of QA for the Prime Manager Contractor for two years and can attest to the fact that all engineers and scientists working on the Project were subject to close scrutiny in their ability to show the sources of their work and the paper trail that ended with their conclusions. Each of the participating laboratories was subjected to frequent detailed QA audits, conducted by the Project's QA personnel, accompanied frequently by

representatives of the State of Nevada.

From this experience I can say that the information set forth in the documents which the NRC will consider has been through a thorough, critical examination by professional QA personnel.

I am convinced that the opponents of the Yucca Mountain Project use emotional statements that are far from factual. Their opposition to its location on the edge of the Nevada Test Site, is more distant than the nuclear detonations which were made there in the 50's and 60's, from which no damage or bad publicity ever was felt by Las Vegas or its tourist industry. The fear that tourists driving along the highway will be intimidated by trucks carrying nuclear waste to Yucca Mountain is strictly an emotional argument that has no basis. The history of radioactive waste shipments in the U.S. is one of complete success. The fear that a truck will wreck in the I-15-I-95 spaghetti bowl causing the release of radioactivity ignores the years of extreme testing that the containers have gone through, and the safety record of radioactive shipments earned over thirty years of activity.

Despite the claims that the majority of Nevada residents oppose the Yucca Mountain Project there are thousands of citizens who have taken tours of the Project over the last twenty years. During my employment busloads of citizens visited the Project, talked to the engineers and scientists, and stood on top of Yucca Mountain, where its remoteness is so apparent. These witnesses to the scope of work, who talked to the personnel who manned the testing facilities, be they hydrologists, geologists, seismologists or engineers left with an idea that the work was being done by professionals. Many of those visitors disagreed with our politicians who haven't even visited the Project site but have believed every word of its critics.

I remember the comment of a man on one of the buses I guided through one of those tours. "When are you going to get this damned thing done?" I answered that there were still years of testing to be done, to which he could only shake his head. He wondered why it had become such a political football.

So do I. But our Senators (especially ex-Senator Brayan) and now Reid refuse to let science be the ruling factor. They play to the emotions instead of rationality. I hope

they do not make the NRC think that politics should outweigh science and engineering.

**3** **List the important details.** Identify specific details and data that support the main ideas. When you include the exact words of the author or another speaker, use quotation marks to identify the beginning and end of the text.